

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, 10-14, and 17-25 are pending in the application, with 1 and 14 being the independent claims. Claims 9, 15, and 16 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 10, 12, 14, 17, and 20 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. For at least the reasons provided herein, the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Consideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for prompt identification of allowable subject matter. On page 7, in paragraph 15 of the Office Action, the Examiner identified claims 9-13 and 16-22 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 9. Thus, as amended, independent claim 1 is equivalent to rewriting allowable claim 9 in independent form. Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claim 14 to include the features of allowable claim 16. Thus, as amended, independent claim 14 is equivalent to rewriting allowable claim 16 in independent form. Allowable claims 10-13 and 17-22 have been

amended to depend from one of independent claims 1 and 14. As amended, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Specification

On page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification due to minor informalities. The specification has been amended to correct these informalities. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0074906. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 9, which the Examiner has stated is allowable. Thus, as amended, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 2-7, 14, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0074906 in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0033996. As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claim 9, which the Examiner has stated is allowable. Thus, as amended, independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Applicant has also amended independent claim 14 to include the features of claim 16, which the Examiner has stated is allowable.

Thus, as amended, independent claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7, and 23-25 depend from one of allowable independent claims 1 and 14 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 14 are allowable, and further for the specific features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Beginning on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0074906 in view of U.S. Patent 6,794,100. Claim 15 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 15 is moot. Claim 8 depends from amended independent claim 1, which is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

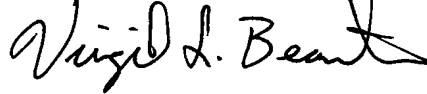
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virgil L. Beaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'V'.

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